GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4370
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2002
CONDITIONS OF POWERLOOM WORKERS
RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of pitiable condition and economic exploitation of powerloom workers in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check their exploitation ;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the circumstances leading to the pitiable condition of the workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government would bring in a comprehensive law to regulate the powerloom industry; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a),(b), (c) & (d) The decentralised powerloom sector is suffering from technological obsolescence and demand recession in the global market due to abysmal level of technology, low level of technical skills, poor productivity, generally extremely poor product quality and low unit value realization from exports. Majority of the powerlooms in decentralised sector are working on job work basis and are fully dependent on the master weavers. Government has focused on technology upgradation to improve productivity and cost effectiveness, while simultaneously giving emphasis on promotion of the welfare of the powerloom workers.

(e) & (f) Since the rules and regulations as applicable to the textile industry are equally applicable to the decentralised powerloom sector, there is no necessity of separate law to regulate the powerloom industry.